

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 CA-01 /021 R

DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/SADOBRECHUK  
APPROVED BY CA/SCS/AAGISE  
L/CA-RHENDERSON  
AF/W-BSKIRPATRICK  
L/AF-NELY

-----085323 152208Z /20  
O 152134Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC(BENNETT, LEONARD)

SUBJECT: W/W LEONARD BENNETT

REF: COTONOU 844

1. MRS. BENNETT INFORMED SCS OFFICER SHE TALKED WITH HER HUSBAND ON JUNE 11 WHO SEEMED GENERALLY ENCOURAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS. MR. BENNETT RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SONATRAC REQUESTING A SUM OF MONEY (UNSPECIFIED) PRESUMABLY FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

2. HE REPORTEDLY WAS INFORMED THAT COMMISSION HAD COMPLETED THEIR INVESTIGATION. BENNETT WROTE PRESIDENT KEREKOU AND LATER LEARNED FROM ATTORNEY KEKE THAT LETTER WAS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH A COMMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AUTHORITIES WERE INSTRUCTED TO CONCLUDE THE CASE PROMPTLY. BENNETT ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS VISITED BY SOME OFFICIAL FROM FONMIN WHO SEEMED ENCOURAGED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN  
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CASE.

3. WITH REF TO PARA 4 REFTEL WE SHARE EMBASSY'S CONCERN ABOUT BENNETT'S FUNDS IN EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WE ARE GUIDED BY RE RESTRICTIONS IN 7 FAM 437.1 AND TITLE 22CFR71.5 WHICH PROHIBIT SAFEKEEPING. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES GIVEN, THERE-

FORE, OPTION B PARA 4 REFTEL NOT ACCEPTABLE.

4. BENNETT SHOULD BE TOLD THAT EMBASSY HAS NO AUTHORITY AND IN FACT IS PROHIBITED FROM ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEKEEPING OF HIS PERSONAL PROPERTY INCLUDING FUNDS. HE SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED BY EMBASSY IN WRITING REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHOM HE AUTHORIZES DELIVERY. THIS SHOULD BE DONE TO AVOID ANY FUTURE MISUNDERSTANDING. (DEPARTMENT NOTES BENNETT HAS LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND ASSOCIATES WHO MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST HIM TRANSFER HIS FUNDS FROM EMBASSY). EMBASSY NOT REQUIRED TO SOLVE HIS PROBLEM BUT MAY OFFER HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS SUCH AS USE OF SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX.

5. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT OF ACTION TAKEN RE ABOVE.

6. VIEW MRS. BENNETT'S COMMENTS AND FACT THAT DEP ASST SEC HARROP WAS INFORMED BY AUTHORITIES THAT A DECISION MAY BE REACHED BY JUNE 15 APPRECIATE PROMPT REPORT OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SCS/SADOBRECHUK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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